

EROSION + SEDIMENT CONTROL

IDENTIFYING + MONITORING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN YOUR WATERSHED

What to Look For:

- ◆ Zoning signs - Attend County or City Planning Commission meetings to learn about upcoming development;
- ◆ Site clearing activities - Watch for clearing activities and investigate through your local government;
- ◆ Other activities suggesting development;
- ◆ Muddy water flowing down/in streets (where is it coming from?);
- ◆ Muddy colored streams or waterways that normally do not look muddy (trace upstream to find source); and
- ◆ Tracking of mud in roads (Is it coming from a construction site?)

Locate the Site on a Map

Rain water usually runs off construction sites to a nearby waterway (or sinkhole). It can be very helpful to locate a construction site on a map in order to identify what waterway the site drains. Using a local road map or a topo map you can identify natural features, such as streams, hills, lakes, etc. Locating the site on a map will help the documentation process when obtaining a true picture of what is happening in the watershed.

Is the site within the city limits of Bowling Green or is it in Warren County? There are differences in the ordinances between the city and county. You need to know where the site is to provide a better evaluation and so you know where to send your **Site Report Card**.

EVALUATING A CONSTRUCTION SITE EVALUATING A SITE

Using the Pictorial Field Guide

Once you have decided to document a construction site, remember: **Do Not Trespass**. Only access the site either by coordinating a site visit with the local inspector or the public access roads, or by getting explicit permission from the authorized responsible party on the site. Look for low points on the site where water flows and problems may occur, i.e. silt fence failures, silt in streams, etc. Think about where the water flows and evaluate your construction site using the **Pictorial Field Guide** and complete the **Site Report Card**. Take pictures of what you see! Attaching digital or printed photos to your **Report Card** will help the inspector see what you saw – and it provides great documentation of problems on-site.

Filling out the Site Report Card

Helpful Hints:

- ◆ BMP's are to be used as a system. For example: Silt fences with mulching with basins with check dams. All of the BMP's should work together to prevent sediment from leaving the site.
- ◆ Identify the BMP's on the site and answer the questions for each on the **Site Report Card**.

Calculating a Grade:

Remember this is a subjective "grade" not an absolute score – three different people looking at the same site would likely have three different scores! However, the BMP's should all work together to keep sediment from leaving the site and so the OVERALL score is critical.

- ◆ An "A" grade means the BMP is installed correctly and is working as designed.
- ◆ A "C" grade means the BMP is installed but needs maintenance, and an "F" grade means not installed, or installed improperly and completely failed.
- ◆ The "Grade" for each BMP is subjective based on the BMP required installation and what is actually observed.
- ◆ When "grading" the construction site, evaluate the entire site by giving it an OVERALL evaluation based on a summary of all the site BMP's.
- ◆ If available to you, is the approved Erosion and Sediment Plan being followed? Are erosion and sediment control measures installed and maintained?

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES [BMPs]

BMPs are vegetative measures and structural practices that control erosion of soil and the resulting sedimentation. Good erosion control and sediment reduction does not require a rocket scientist or a "legal eagle". Planners and engineers should be providing Erosion + Sediment Pollution Control Plans [ESPCP] designed to protect the environment. In addition, the key to well-planned land disturbing activities is well-informed managers in the field. The temporary and permanent, structural and vegetative measures should be designed as a system to provide immediate and sustainable Erosion + Sediment pollution control. A good plan will save as much of the existing vegetation as possible and minimize disturbed areas.

Please note: even the best-designed, installed, and maintained plan may not prevent runoff in severe rain events (like a real frog-strangler).

OBJECTIVES of the EROSION + SEDIMENT POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN [ESPCP]

- 1) Outlines Best Management Practices (BMP's) and sampling locations
- 2) Must be prepared by a design professional
- 3) Must be approved by the Local Issuing Authority
- 4) Plan must be kept current

BOWLING GREEN AND WARREN COUNTY SPECIFIC ORDINANCES

WARREN COUNTY EPSC Ordinance:

[http://www.warrencountygov.com/Stormwater%20Management%20\(EPSC\)%20Ordinance.pdf](http://www.warrencountygov.com/Stormwater%20Management%20(EPSC)%20Ordinance.pdf)

BOLWING GREEN ESPC Ordinance: See Chapter 21-2.03

[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Kentucky/bgky/chapterxxistreetsandsidewalks?f=templates\\$fn=altmain-nf.htm\\$3.0#JD_21-2.03](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Kentucky/bgky/chapterxxistreetsandsidewalks?f=templates$fn=altmain-nf.htm$3.0#JD_21-2.03)